

Long Lake Fire Update

Jahn Dyvik

October 4, 2022

Overview:

1. The current Long Lake Fire Department Agreement with Orono and Medina expires in December 2025. Minnetonka Beach is under separate contract.
2. Long Lake would like to maintain partnership with Orono, Medina and Minnetonka Beach.
3. Orono has initiated steps to take-over the fire department, against the will of Long Lake.
4. Orono paused this for 8 weeks for negotiations between the two cities. (Victoria Seals/Matt Johnson from Orono City Council and Jahn Dyvik/Charlie Miner (Mayor) from Long Lake City Council.
5. That negotiation was cut short by a Mayor Walsh motion which then led to current buy out offer from Orono for the LLFD.

The negotiating team came up with mutually agreed upon solution: **Independent Fire Board**

1. The Fire Board is a body separate from the individual cities that employs the fire chief and fire fighters, and has operational and strategic authority.
2. The Fire Board would be made up of Council members from each of the four cities (Orono having more members than each of the other cities). Orono would have more voting rights on this board than Long Lake (similar to the greater voting power they have now).
3. Long Lake would be willing to allow Orono provide administrative support to the Fire Board, but ultimately this administrative support should come from within the fire department with a dedicated admin for the chief.
4. Under this solution, Long Lake would give up authority over the fire chief and fire operations, that it has had for the past 20 years of current contract (and the 80 years prior to that).

Before negotiations started:

“I do feel like there’s some middle ground that we just haven’t found yet”

Victoria Seals, June 13, 2022

“I’m not going to close the door to any concept”

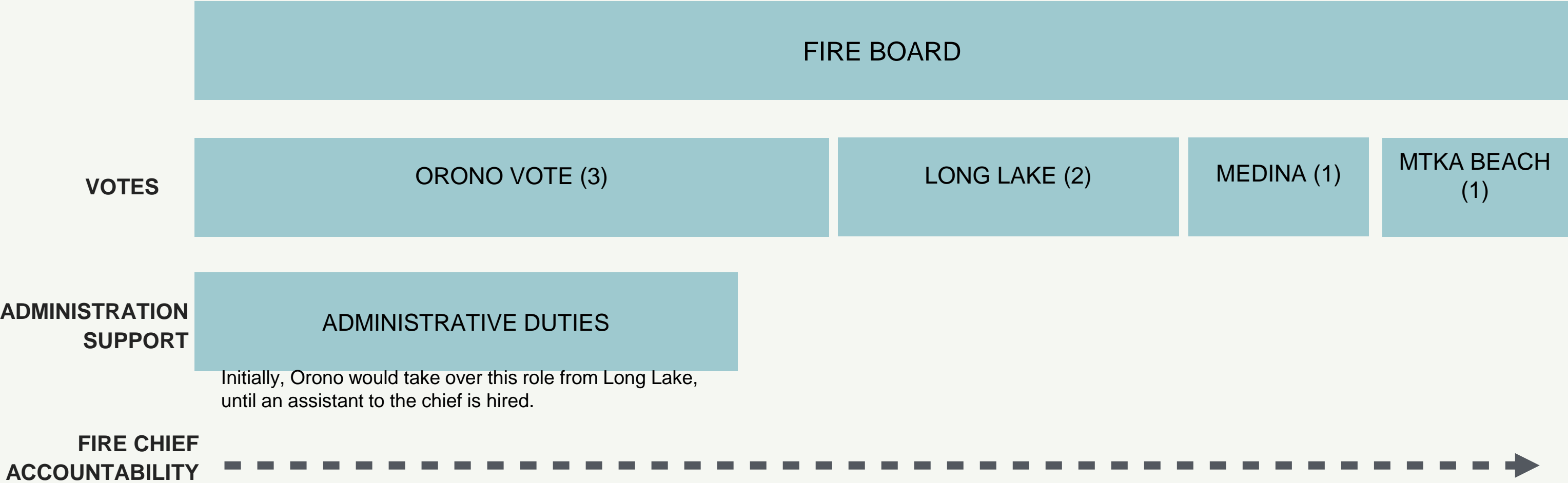
Matt Johnson, June 13, 2022

“We pay 85% of the bill we’re going to have our name on the door. It’s that simple”

Rich Crosby, June 13, 2022

What could a Fire Board look like?

(This is the working concept that was developed by Orono representatives (Victoria Seals and Matt Johnson) and Long Lake Representatives (Jahn Dyvik and Charlie Miner/mayor)



However, Orono negotiators have **ignored all terms of negotiation and “middle ground”** and have instead reverted back to where both cities began 6 months prior, again to a full buy-out offer.

(Per September 26, 2022 Orono council meeting)

Orono’s perspective on the art of negotiating:

In one of the final negotiation meetings, it was stated by Johnson that it wasn’t his job to “sell” our negotiated concept or try to persuade his council members to agree with it, or at least be willing to live with it. It was simply his job to present the facts.

Johnson has also stated during negotiations that Long Lake was being “too rigid” because of its unwillingness to turn over full control to Orono.

Offer to Long Lake is presented as total compensation of \$2.488M

Long Lake Fire			Offer		
Item	Cost	Description	Item	Cost	Description
Building	\$ 850,000	Orono Assumes Deferred Maintenance of \$1.5M	Building	\$ 1,250,000	Orono Assumes Deferred Maintenance of \$1.5M
Rolling Stock	\$ 275,306	Original Paid Amount, Est Market Value \$142k	Rolling Stock	\$ 275,306	Original Paid Amount, Est Market Value \$142k
Capital Exp Misc	\$ 63,134	Original Paid Amount, Est Market Value \$0	Capital Exp Misc	\$ 63,134	Original Paid Amount, Est Market Value \$0
Total Offer Amount	\$ 1,188,440			\$ 1,588,440	
			Unexpended LL CIP		Est. of \$200,000 LL CIP Reserve retained by LL
			Total Offer Amount	\$ 1,588,440	
FD Operations Cost/YR	\$ 73,000	10 yr average - Based on LL Provided Budget (3%/year increase)	FD Operations Cost/YR	\$ 73,000	10 yr average - Based on LL Provided Budget (3%/year increase)
FD CIP Contribution/YR	\$ 70,000	10 yr average - Based on LL Provided Budget	FD CIP Contribution/YR		10 yr average - Based on LL Provided Budget
Total Cost of Service	\$ 1,430,000	10 ys cost	Total Cost of Service	\$ 730,000	10 ys cost
			Summary	\$ 1,588,440	Bldg, Rolling Stock, Cap Exp Misc, Donated Items
				\$ 200,000	Retained CIP
				\$ 700,000	No 10 yr CIP Savings
				\$ 2,488,440	

- Orono claims there is \$1.5M of deferred maintenance on Station 1. There is no evidence to this claim. Station 1 is current on it's maintenance and repairs.
- Long Lake consultant believes there will be a need for a new roof, and some other building updates in 5 years which is in the chief's CIP. **There are no current deficiencies.**

Offer to Long Lake is presented as total compensation of \$2.488M

Orono Offer	
Item	Cost
Building	\$1,250,000
Roling Stock	\$275,306
Capitol Exp Misc	\$63,134
Total Offer About	\$1,588,440

Summary	\$ 1,588,440	Bldg, Rolling Stock, Cap Exp Misc, Donated Items
	\$ 200,000	Retained CIP
	\$ 700,000	No 10 yr CIP Savings
	\$ 2,488,440	

- The \$200k fire fund is within Long Lake’s internal accounting and not an allocation to the LLFD CIP. Long Lake has this fund for CIP payments plus emergency fire needs.
- By Orono’s logic, if this were Long Lake’s CIP allocation, then Orono’s should be \$2M by percentage. But Orono’s internal fire equipment fund balance is \$300k.
- The 10 year CIP savings of \$700k is based on a notional CIP that was requested by Orono. It’s not real. It was a “sky’s the limit”, “money is no object” notional plan.
- **Offer is actually \$1.588M**

Orono asserts in their offer that Long Lake CIP budget for the next 10 years is out of control.

- “Just to give you an idea our projected 10 year cost with our operation cost and projected CIP provided to us from Long Lake for the next 10 years of service is almost \$11M. This is an incredible amount of money and so we have to take the responsible step in controlling it” . Matt Johnson Sep 26, 2022
- The reality is that these **notional CIP spend numbers are the answer to a question asked by an Orono council member** to the Fire Chief in a 2022 Fire Advisory Board meeting, *“If money was no object, what would the CIP budget look like?”* This is **not** a real-scenario budget, it was a CIP *“if money were no object”* exercise to see how big the gap is and how we work to close it.

2023 - 2037 CIP for Vehicles, Equipment					
Item	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
New U11 and old U11 moves to station 2		\$200,000			
Replace CMD2 with new command vehicle	\$65,000				
Replace existing engine with new rescue pumper		\$900,000			
Replace CMD1 with new command vehicle	\$70,000				
Replace existing engine with new rescue pumper			\$1,000,000		
New L11			\$1,800,000		
Replace old U11 with new utility vehicle				\$250,000	
Retire P21					
Replace U21 with a new Utility Vehicle					\$70,000
Replace T12 with new tanker/tender					\$390,000
Fire Stations Remodel & Refurbishment					
Radio Replacement		\$60,000			\$70,000
Turnout Gear Replacement		\$225,000			
Subtotal Fire Equipment		\$1,385,000	\$2,800,000	\$250,000	\$530,000

These two rescue pumpers are not likely going to be on this timeline

This full price ladder truck is unlikely to be purchased in 2024. A lower cost used ladder truck would be a possibility in 2023

The “not a real scenario” CIP - 2023

1. Notional CIP has \$900k rescue pumper in 2023 and \$1M rescue pumper in 2024 as well as a full price \$1.8M ladder truck in 2024
2. Including some other equipment, the total 2 year CIP budget would be \$4.185M.
3. Our current budget for those two years would be \$206k. Off by a factor of 20.
4. Clearly, this is not meant to be taken as an actual CIP plan but rather an exercise to show the gap.
5. This Orono requested “sky’s the limit” CIP was set up for failure by being misused by Orono in its intent. Even the Orono Finance manager said on Sept 26, 2022 meeting that this CIP “was not real” and not funded.

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2023 - 2037 CIP for Vehicles, Equip and Building								
Item	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2023-2027	Notes
New U11 and old U11 moves to station 2		\$200,000					\$200,000	Move old U11 to Staiton 2 and to replace U21 grass response. U21 moves to station 1 as pickup truck
Replace CMD2 with new command vehicle	\$65,000						\$0	Replace CMD2
Replace existing engine with new rescue pumper		\$900,000					\$900,000	Replace E11
Replace CMD1 with new command vehicle	\$70,000						\$0	Replace CMD1
Replace existing engine with new rescue pumper			\$1,000,000				\$1,000,000	Replace E21
New L11			\$1,800,000				\$1,800,000	
Replace old U11 with new utility vehicle				\$250,000			\$250,000	
Retire R21					\$0		\$0	Retire R21
Replace U21 with a new Utility Vehicle					\$75,000		\$75,000	
Replace T12 with new tanker/tender					\$390,000		\$390,000	
							\$0	
Fire Stations Remodel & Refuribshment						\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	Adding updates, re-roof EOC updates, paint & flooring
							\$0	
Radio Replacement		\$60,000			\$70,000		\$130,000	
Turnout Gear Replacement		\$225,000					\$225,000	Excluded from the plan at this time.
Subtotal Fire Equipment		\$1,385,000	\$2,800,000	\$250,000	\$535,000	\$2,000,000	\$6,970,000	
Item		2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2028-2032	Notes
Replace R12 with new heavy rescue		\$1,000,000					\$1,000,000	
Refurbish B11 - new motor, electronics, lights, pump				\$125,000			\$125,000	
Replace CMD2 with new command vehicle						\$105,000	\$105,000	
							\$0	
Radio Replacement					\$90,000		\$90,000	
Extrication Equipment		\$25,000					\$25,000	
Turnout Gear Replacement		\$270,000					\$270,000	Excluded from the plan at this time
Subtotal Fire Equipment		\$1,295,000	\$0	\$125,000	\$90,000	\$105,000	\$1,615,000	
Item		2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2033-2037	Notes
Replace CMD1 with new command vehicle		\$110,000					\$110,000	
Replace T11 with new tanker/tnder vehicle			\$370,000				\$370,000	
Replace new U11 with a utility vehicle						\$415,000	\$415,000	
							\$0	
Extrication Equipment		\$35,000					\$35,000	
Turnout Gear Replacement		\$325,000					\$325,000	Excluded from the plan at this time.
Replace SCBAs				\$450,000			\$450,000	
Radio Replacement					\$115,000		\$115,000	
Subtotal Fire Equipment		\$470,000	\$370,000	\$450,000	\$115,000	\$415,000	\$1,820,000	

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CIP from 2022 shows the funding limitations it is currently working under

1. Due to the lack of CIP funding from Orono, chief had to push equipment out before replacement.
2. So for example, 20 year life was extended to 25 years (see E21). This was not ideal but workable with the limited funds.
3. Ladder truck is shown in 2035. Ongoing discussions with neighboring cities about who to share cost of ladder truck.

2022 - 2036 CIP for Vehicles, Equip and Building							
Item	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2022-2026	Notes
Replace U11 with new utility vehicle	\$165,000					\$165,000	moving old U11 to Station 2 & moving U21 to Station 1 2K for selling old U11 2K for selling old CMD2 & moving CMD1 to DO vehicle 2K for selling old R21 2K for selling old utility vehicle
Replace old U11 with new grass/medical truck for Station 2				\$190,000		\$190,000	
Replace CMD2 with new CMD1	\$85,000					\$85,000	
Retire R21					\$0		
Replace U21 with a new Utility Vehicle					\$80,000	\$80,000	
Radio Replacement						\$0	
Subtotal Fire Equipment	\$230,000	\$0	\$0	\$190,000	\$80,000	\$480,000	
Resale Revenue	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$10,000	
Funding Level from the cities	\$103,000	\$103,000	\$103,000	\$103,000	\$103,000	\$515,000	
CIP Funding Level	\$124,968	\$1,968	\$104,968	\$207,968	\$122,968	\$169,968	

Item	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2027-2031	Notes
Replace CMD2/DO with new CMD1 vehicle	\$75,000					\$75,000	5K for selling old E21 2K for selling old T12
Refurbishment of B11 & Trailer with new fire boat and trailer				\$90,000		\$90,000	
Replace E21 with new rescue pumper		\$575,000				\$575,000	
Replace T12 with new tanker					\$240,000	\$240,000	
						\$0	
Subtotal Fire Equipment	\$75,000	\$575,000	\$0	\$90,000	\$240,000	\$980,000	
Resale Revenue	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$9,000	
Funding Level from the cities	\$103,000	\$103,000	\$103,000	\$103,000	\$103,000	\$515,000	
CIP Funding Level	\$169,968	\$199,968	-\$267,032	-\$164,032	-\$151,032	-\$266,032	

Vehicle	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2032-2036	Notes
Replace E11 & R12 with new Aerial				\$1,100,000		\$1,100,000	5K for selling old E11 2K for selling old CMD2 2K for selling old rescue vehicle 2K for selling old grass/utility
Replace CMD2 with new CMD1		\$85,000				\$85,000	
Retire R12 See line above for replacement						\$0	
Replace U11 with new utility/grass vehicle @ Station 1					\$200,000	\$200,000	
Re-roof Station 1	\$250,000					\$250,000	
Re-roof Station 2					\$125,000	\$125,000	
Replace SCBAs				\$300,000		\$300,000	
Carpet and Paint Station 1					\$85,000	\$85,000	
EOC Updates					\$50,000	\$50,000	
Radio Replacement		\$160,000				\$160,000	Replace all portable and mobile radios
Subtotal Fire Equipment	\$250,000	\$245,000	\$0	\$1,400,000	\$480,000	\$2,355,000	
Resale Revenue	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$7,000	\$2,000	\$13,000	
Funding Level from the cities	\$103,000	\$103,000	\$103,000	\$103,000	\$103,000	\$515,000	
CIP Funding Level	-\$266,032	-\$433,032	-\$573,032	-\$468,032	-\$1,758,032	-\$2,113,032	

A more realistic, but still challenging CIP could look something like this:

This is an unapproved middle ground CIP estimate.

- Rescue pumpers go from 20 year life to 22 year. Maybe they push out another year
- Ladder truck purchase is based on used truck price opportunity (estimated \$643k all in) in 2023.
- This spreads out the higher cost over the next five years, instead of two.
- This might still be too aggressive. Need to discuss more at fire advisory board

2023 - 2037 CIP for Vehicles, Equip and Building								
Item	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2023-2027	Notes
New U11 and U11 moves to station 2		\$200,000					\$200,000	Move old U11 to Station 2 and to replace U21 grass response. U21 moves to station 1 as pickup truck
Replace CMD2 with new command vehicle	\$65,000						\$0	Replace CMD2
Replace existing engine with new rescue pumper				\$900,000			\$900,000	Replace E11
Replace CMD1 with new command vehicle	\$70,000						\$0	Replace CMD1
Replace existing engine with new rescue pumper					\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000	Replace E21
Replace old U11 with new utility vehicle		\$643,000					\$643,000	Used Ladder Truck
Retire R21				\$250,000			\$250,000	
Replace U21 with a new Utility Vehicle					\$75,000		\$75,000	Retire R21
Replace T12 with new tanker/tender					\$390,000		\$390,000	
							\$0	
Fire Stations Remodel & Refurbishment						\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	Adding updates, re-roof EOC updates, paint & flooring
							\$0	
Radio Replacement		\$60,000			\$70,000		\$130,000	Motorola End of Life for 5 portables in 2021 and 7 portables in 2023
Subtotal Fire Equipment		\$903,000	\$0	\$1,150,000	\$1,535,000	\$2,000,000	\$5,588,000	
Item	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2028-2032	Notes	
Replace R12 with new heavy rescue	\$1,000,000					\$1,000,000		
Refurbish B11 - new motor, electronics, lights, pump			\$125,000			\$125,000		
Replace CMD2 with new command vehicle					\$105,000	\$105,000		
						\$0		
Radio Replacement				\$90,000		\$90,000		
Extrication Equipment	\$25,000					\$25,000		
Subtotal Fire Equipment	\$1,025,000	\$0	\$125,000	\$90,000	\$105,000	\$1,345,000		
Item	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2033-2037	Notes	
Replace CMD1 with new command vehicle	\$110,000					\$110,000		
Replace T11 with new tanker/tender vehicle		\$370,000				\$370,000		
Replace new U11 with a utility vehicle					\$415,000	\$415,000		
						\$0		
Extrication Equipment	\$35,000					\$35,000		
Replace SCBAs			\$450,000			\$450,000		
Radio Replacement				\$115,000		\$115,000		
Subtotal Fire Equipment	\$145,000	\$370,000	\$450,000	\$115,000	\$415,000	\$1,495,000		

As we consider, next steps one of our biggest concerns is the trustworthiness of Orono leadership, especially based on the narrative they are using to justify their decision-making regarding this topic.

The following slides are examples based on direct observation and feedback from others in the community.

LONG LAKE AND ORONO WERE SUPPOSED TO BECOME ONE

ORONO CLAIM:

“Long Lake was intended to become part of Orono and that’s why Station 1 was built in Orono”

Orono Council Quote: “When the contract was written it was never thought that we would be separate cities. There’s a reason they built Station 1 on Orono ground” Victoria Seals June 13, 2022.

FACT:

Fire Agreement and location for Station 1 were decided **three years after the referendum** for the two cities to become one failed as Long Lake voted to reject the merge.

PAYING 85% OF THE COST

ORONO CLAIM:

“Orono pays 85%, 90% of the bill...and it keeps going up”

•Orono Council Quote: “The fact is we’re paying 85 to 90% of the bill and we’re not in control” Rich Crosby May 23, 2022.

“And it’s going up” – Denny Walsh, May 23, 2022

FACT:

Orono currently pays just under 85% of the bill due to service coverage. And it’s not going up. It has actually decreased slightly since the high of 85.45% in 2020.

1. **Implication that Long Lake is price gouging Orono to higher percentages is not true.**
Orono currently pays almost 85% of the bill due to increasing coverage over the years including Orono’s request to have Long Lake Fire take over areas served by the fire departments of Maple Plain and Wayzata.
2. **City formula.** Long Lake does not set the percentage or price for Orono. From the contract, “The Contracting Cities have agreed that 70% of the share allocation will be based upon Market Value and 30% upon fire department hours expended on calls to the City Fire Service Area”.
3. **Long Lake is open to using a different formula.** Long Lake fire chief has looked at different formulae previously at Orono’s request and results aren’t much different. Long Lake has expressed willingness to consider a different formula.

Year	Orono	Comments
2000		Added Maple Plain's area of Orono
2001	72.38%	
2002		
2003	74.68%	
2004	76.07%	
2005		
2006	76.76%	
2007		Added Station 2 and the area covered in Orono
2008	83.18%	Any fire allocations before 2008 are an estimated from the Capital purchased in those years
2009	85.15%	
2010	83.74%	
2011	83.59%	
2012	82.86%	
2013	82.73%	
2014	82.90%	
2015	83.61%	
2016	83.83%	
2017	83.02%	
2018	85.38%	Added Wayzata's area of Orono
2019	85.31%	
2020	85.45%	
2021	85.14%	
2022	84.96%	
2023	84.76%	

ORONO HAS NO CONTROL

ORONO CLAIM:

“...Orono has no control or no say.”

Orono Quote: “How do you spend 85% of money for a fire department and have no say” Rich Crosby, June 13, 2002

Orono Quote: “We are paying 90% of the bill on this contract that we have no control of, we have no control of”

Dennis Walsh, May 23, 2022

FACT:

Orono has **more control** than Long Lake over operating budget and capital improvement plan budget.

Orono has always had complete veto power and greater budgeting power than Long Lake.

1. The contract states approval of capital budget requires **2 cities and 60% of funding share.**
2. “Once this level of approval is obtained, all Contract Cities are obligated to fund their share of the expenditures”
3. Long Lake and Medina neither individually nor together can ever force a budget on Orono, because they pay less than 60% - **Orono has complete veto power.**
4. Further, Orono and Medina **can** force a budget on Long Lake even if Long Lake votes against.
5. Operating budget must be approved by **all** cities, meaning again, **Orono has veto power over the operating budget.**

LLFD BEING UNDER-FUNDED

ORONO CLAIM:

LLFD CIP is under-funded

Orono Council meeting,
9/26/22

FACT:

Yes, and Orono has made it so

1. LLFD CIP is underfunded, and Orono has control for CIP budgets.
2. Early on, the Chief requested an increase of the CIP budget to meet the needs of the rising costs of equipment, **Orono instructed him to make cuts in spending instead.**
3. A 3% increase was finally granted by Orono around 2013, **it was supposed to be a 3% increase each year** (as shown in the Chief's 15 year CIP in 2013 and 2014 .
4. Instead, Orono made it a **one time** increase, so that now, **9 years after that single increase the annual budget still sits only at \$103k.**
5. This one time increase was acknowledged by the Orono negotiating team as a decision by a previous Orono Administrator.
6. How will Orono manage this fund if it owns the FD? Either it will continue to underfund, or it will fund it properly, demonstrating Orono's lack of support for CIP **only** when it's under LLFD.

Year	3% increase/year Starting in 2002	3% Increase/ year starting in 2013	One time 3% increase in 2013
2002	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
2003	\$ 103,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
2004	\$ 106,090	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
2005	\$ 109,273	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
2006	\$ 112,551	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
2007	\$ 115,927	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
2008	\$ 119,405	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
2009	\$ 122,987	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
2010	\$ 126,677	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
2011	\$ 130,477	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
2012	\$ 134,392	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
2013	\$ 138,423	\$ 103,000	\$ 103,000
2014	\$ 142,576	\$ 106,090	\$ 103,000
2015	\$ 146,853	\$ 109,273	\$ 103,000
2016	\$ 151,259	\$ 112,551	\$ 103,000
2017	\$ 155,797	\$ 115,927	\$ 103,000
2018	\$ 160,471	\$ 119,405	\$ 103,000
2019	\$ 165,285	\$ 122,987	\$ 103,000
2020	\$ 170,243	\$ 126,677	\$ 103,000
2021	\$ 175,351	\$ 130,477	\$ 103,000
2022	\$ 180,611	\$ 134,392	\$ 103,000
2023	\$ 186,029	\$ 138,423	\$ 103,000
Total	\$ 3,053,678	\$ 2,419,203	\$ 2,233,000
	What should have been	What could have been	What is

LONG LAKE FINANCIAL MISMANAGEMENT

ORONO CLAIM:

**2023 operating budget saw significant increase of 19%.
Long Lake is not managing budget well**

Orono quote: “They increased by 19% and in my opinion a lot of that
had to do that they were under-budgeting for years and ignoring
things”.

Orono Finance, Sept 26, 2022

FACT:

The operating budget has kept pace with
inflation.

Historically, the operating budget has kept pace with CPI.

1. The operating budget increased by ~\$100K.
 - Over half of this \$100k increase is for salaries/insurance
 - **This includes a well deserved and overdue increase to the firefighters' on-call and training pay rate.**
2. Remaining increased budget items include rising costs of turn out gear, fuel, and maintenance.
3. Orono **did not** discuss the reasons for the 19% increase in their 9-26-2022 meeting. Just labeled it mismanagement.
4. Historically, the operating budget has kept pace with or been below CPI.

Year	% increase Operating Budget	CPI - MPLS/STP
2023	19.81%	
2022	6.99%	8.60%
2021	-1.22%	4.70%
2020	7.74%	1.20%
2019	3.33%	1.80%
2018	2.81%	2.40%
2017	2.01%	2.10%
2016	1.94%	1.30%
2015	2.39%	0.10%
2014	1.37%	1.60%
2013	0.31%	1.50%
2012	-4.62%	2.10%

NOT ABOUT PERFORMANCE

ORONO CLAIM:

Orono has said it's not an issue of performance or service, but rather it's a financial issue.

Orono quote: "This is a business decision. There's been a lot of rhetoric it's about performance. It has nothing to do with performance. It's a dollars and sense thing". - Rich Crosby June 13, 2022

FACT:

Agree that performance has been excellent, thanks to the commitment of our firefighters and the leadership of the chief. **There is no evidence of financial mismanagement.**

QUALITY OF SERVICE

ORONO CLAIM:

Long Lake fears that fire fighters will provide lower quality service if chief reports to Orono.

Orono quote: Long Lake was “worried about the level of service they get from the fire fighters because the chief reported to Orono”. Matt Johnson Sep 26, 2022

FACT:

Long Lake **never** said anything remotely resembling that claim suggesting that the fire fighters would give a different level to Long Lake under Orono ownership

Long Lake has full confidence in the fire fighters.

1. Long Lake backs the fire fighters 100% and believes they sacrifice their time and risk their lives responding to fire and medicals. This is their commitment regardless of which city runs the fire department.
2. Long Lake did question however, if the City of Orono (not the fire fighters) might make decisions that are not in the best interest of Long Lake. For example, if Orono were to decide that Station 1 wasn't in the best location to serve them, and they decided to move operations to another location, that could affect response times to Long Lake.

Final Thoughts:

Orono did approve the LLFD operating budget for 2023, in spite of claiming the 19% increase is due to mismanagement.

Orono rejected the not real “wish list” CIP (which should never have been considered as realistic), but did say they would review capital purchases on case by case basis.

My hope is that neither Orono nor Long Lake puts politics in front of public safety while we decide on the future of the fire department.

Orono is bound by the current contract up until December 2025, or sooner if and when that decision is made and executed. I expect that Orono will honor the contract in the best interest of public safety.

My hope was and still is for a middle ground Fire Board solution, that at least one of the Orono council members supports. This solution takes away 100 years of Long Lake “control” that Orono has concerns about, and places that control on an independent board.

This is a solution that fire departments are moving towards in the form of JPAs and Fire Districts to share escalating costs and the eventual need for full time duty crews.

Path Forward:

- I would like to develop with the Chief and Fire Advisory Board a realistic 15 year 2023 CIP. One attempts to find ways to reduce the gap between current 2022 CIP and the not real “wish list” CIP.
- I would like put out more notification of current LLFD update to the community that LLFD serves. Maybe by listserv email. Most aren't aware of this significant issue.
- And I would like to have a survey of our Long Lake residents to get their feedback based on some realistic cost impacts.
 - Price and contract cost if we sell vs ongoing operational scenarios and CIP cost if we don't sell.